

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5128
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Concerns Regarding Civil Nuclear Liability Law
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many companies including a US based General Electricals (GE) have expressed their concerns with regard to the clarity in the Indian Civil Nuclear Liability Law;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the GE has evinced its interest in transfer of technology to the country for the construction of multiple Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to build such reactors in the country in near future and is so, the details thereof including the time frame, if any, fixed in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)&(b) Some companies had earlier expressed concern over the issue of supplier's liability in our Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. To address such concerns, clarification was provided by the Government along the lines of 'Frequently Asked Questions'(FAQs) posted on websites of Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy.

(c) Discussions with General Electric are still at a preliminary stage where issues related to transfer of technology have not been discussed.

(d) Decision to buy any foreign-build reactor will be firmly premised on ascertaining the cost viability of the project as well as the soundness and safety of the relevant technology. Therefore, in addition to ascertaining the safety features, the Government also places utmost emphasis on project cost and unit energy cost in all the negotiations for foreign-built reactors, so as to ensure that electricity generated by these nuclear power plants will remain viable vis-À-vis other competitive resources.

At present, no time frame can be given since the discussions with General Electric are only at a preliminary stage.
